

Message Text

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PAGE 01 RABAT 05600 172323Z

65

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 AS-01 TRSE-00 OMB-01

SAM-01 SAB-01 EB-07 ACDA-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /100 W

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O P 172335Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7001

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MADRID PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TUNIS

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY

FOSIF ROTA

COMSIXTHFLT

AMCONSUL CASABLANCA

AMCONSUL TANGIER

C O N F I D E N T I A L RABAT 5600

USCINCEUR AND CINCUSNAVEUR ALSO FOR POLADS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, SS, SP, MO

SUBJECT: KING'S SPEECH ON 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOROCCAN INDEPENDENCE

1. SUMMARY - IN 40 MINUTE NOV. 17 SPEECH IN ARABIAC, KING SPOKE
EXTEMPORANEOUSLY ON TV AND RADIO. LOW-KEY SPEECH DEVOTED
ALMOST ENTIRELY TO MARCH AND SAHARA, AND EXCEPT FOR BRIEF
PASSAGE ON ELECTIONS, BROKE NO NEW GROUND. KING PLAYED DOWN
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PAGE 02 RABAT 05600 172323Z

CONTENTIOUS ISSUES, AND TOOK HIGH ROAD THROUGHOUT.

2. 20TH ANNIVERSARY - AS EXPECTED, KEYNOTE OF SPEECH WAS MOROCCO'S 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF RETURN OF KING'S FATHER, MOHAMMED V, FROM EXILE AND DECLARATION OF MOROCCAN INDEPENDENCE. KING REVIEWED ACCOMPLISHMENTS OVER LAST 20 YEARS, FREQUENTLY INVOKING HIS FATHER'S WORDS.

3. MARCH - TURNING TO SAHARA, KING SAID THAT NATION HAD IN PAST FEW WEEKS PASSED THROUGH A VERY DIFFICULT TIME, AND THAT FEW OUTSIDERS HAD BELIEVED IT WOULD SUCCEED. HE SAID THAT THE MARCH HAD BEEN CONCEIVED ON ONE HAND TO EXERT PRESSURE BUT ON THE OTHER HAND TO BRING ABOUT RAPPROACHEMENT BETWEEN 2 PEOPLES. KING RECALLED HIS NOVEMBER 9 STATEMENT FROM AGADIR THAT MARCH HAD ACHIEVED ITS GOALS. HE WAS PROUD THAT HE HAD NOT HAD TO EXPLAIN TO THE PEOPLE AT THAT TIME WHY THEY SHOULD RETURN TO TARFAYA. THEY RECOGNIZED, HE SAID, THAT THE POLITICAL PROBLEM OF MOROCCAN SOVEREIGNTY AND RESTORATION ITS RIGHTS HAD BEEN SOLVED OR WAS ON VERGE OF BEING SOLVED. TODAY, HE SAID, SAHARA HAD BEEN RETURNED TO MOROCCO.

4. KING EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT SAHARA HAD BEEN OBTAINED WITHOUT BLOODSHED. HE CONGRATULATED THE VOLUNTEERS FOR CREATING "A NEW POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS" IN THE COUNTRY. HE CALLED ON VOLUNTEERS TO TAKE THIS "NATIONALISTIC BEACON" BACK TO THEIR HOMES, TOWNS AND VILLAGES AND SHARE IT WITH THEIR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN. THE MARCH, HE SAID, HAD CREATED A NEW MOROCCO.

5. HE THANKED THE GOVERNMENT, MILITARY, AND CADRES FOR THEIR WORK IN CARRYING OUT THE MARCH. KING SINGLED OUT MOROCCAN MILITARY FORCES IN THE SOUTH FOR ADDITIONAL PRAISE, NOTING THAT SOME MILITARY WOULD BE SEEN NEXT DAY DURING INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS. HE SAID GOD HAD GIVEN MOROCCANS SOMETHING SPECIAL TO CELEBRATE ON 20TH ANNIVERSARY, THE RECOVERY OF THEIR TERRITORY.

6. PLANS FOR SAHARA - KING PROMISED TO UNDERTAKE MASSIVE DEVELOPMENT IN SAHARA TERRITORY. HE SAID THAT SAHARA'S ANNUAL PHOSPHATE INCOME INSUFFICIENT TO THE TASK AT HAND, INDICATING THAT IT WILL ACCOUNT FOR ONLY 2/3 OF THE MONEY HE WANTS TO SPEND THERE. KING ALSO PROMISED TO STRENGTHEN DEFENSES AND INCREASE MOROCCAN CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 RABAT 05600 172323Z

FORCES TO DEFEND THE TERRITORY.

7. ELECTIONS - HE REFERRED TO "PLANS AND PROGRAMS" MADE BEFORE THE MARCH WHICH NOW NEED TO BE FINISHED. KING SAID HE HAD GIVEN ORDERS FOR MUNICIPAL AND PROFESSIONAL ELECTIONS TO MOVE FORWARD AND PROMISED THAT OTHER ELECTIONS WOULD FOLLOW. HE SAID THAT THE INHABITANTS OF THE SAHARA TERRITORY WOULD NOT BE INVOLVED IN THESE ELECTIONS FOR THE TIME BEING BUT THAT A "SPECIAL POLICY" WOULD BE

WORKED OUT FOR THEM WHICH WOULD DIFFER FROM THAT PLANNED FOR THE REST OF MOROCCO. HE PROMISED MOROCCANS THAT THEIR ELECTIONS WOULD BE HELD IN "VERY SHORT" TIME, WITHOUT "NOISE AND DEMAGOGY."

8. FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS, AND FOES - KING PRAISED SPANISH WARMLY, VOICING PLEASURE AT BEING ABLE TO LOOK NORTH AND SEE A FRIEND. SAID OTHER EUROPEAN FRIENDS LIE BEYOND. EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT ANOTHER FRIEND, MAURITANIA, WOULD BE ON MOROCCO'S SOUTHERN BORDER, AND THAT BEYOND LIE SENEGAL, MALI, AND OTHER FRIENDS. HE QUOTED VERSE OF KORAN IN GIVING THANKS TO GOD FOR SUCCESSFUL SAHARA CAMPAIGN, AND SAID HE INVITED BOTH FRIENDS AND THOSE WHO WISH TO BE FRIENDS TO JOIN WITH HIM IN SAME PRAYER. COMMENT: KING THUS REVEALED NO DETAILS OF MADRID ACCORD, KEEPING HIS REMARKS GENERAL THROUGHOUT. HIS TONE WAS UPBEAT, WHILE AT SAME TIME DIGNIFIED AND UNCOMPLACENT. HE AVOIDED GLOATING OVER SAHARA SUCCESSES, INSTEAD UNDERLINING THAT MUCH REMAINED TO BE DONE IN DEVELOPING THAT REGION. HE WAS ALSO CONCILIATORY VIS-A-VIS NEIGHBORS, EXPRESSING MOROCCO'S READINESS FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH THOSE RECIPROCATING SUCH READINESS. HE CAREFULLY AVOIDED ANY REFERENCES WHICH MIGHT EXACERBATE AREA TENSIONS AND DID NOT MENTION ALGERIA EXPLICITLY. ANY UN ROLE IGNORED, AND PLANS FOR "CONSULTING" SAHARA PEOPLE REMAIN UNCLARIFIED. ON INTERNAL SIDE, KING, PLAYING HEAVILY ON MOROCCAN NATIONALISTIC THEMES, HAD UNUSUALLY WARM PRIASE FOR ARMED FORCES. HE ALSO LAUDED GOVERNMENT BUREAUCRACY FOR ITS ROLE IN SAHARA MARCH, BUT POINTEDLY OMITTED ANY THANKS TO POLITICAL PARTIES IN THIS CONNECTION. IN ANNOUNCING ELECTIONS PREPARATIONS, KING WAS VAGUE ON TIMING, ALTHOUGH HE GAVE IMPRESSION ELECTIONS COULD BE HELD FAIRLY SOON. HE DID NOT PREDICATE ELECTIONS ON PROGRESS OF SAHARA CAMPAIGN. AS IN PAST, KING FOCUSED ON LOCAL AND PROFESSIONAL ELECTIONS, WITHOUT SPEAKING SPECIFICALLY OF NATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS. ALSO LEFT UNCLEAR WERE TIMING AND MODALITIES FOR PROVINCIAL AND REGIONAL ELECTIONS. NATIONAL ELECTIONS, AT LEAST, PRESUMABLY CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 04 RABAT 05600 172323Z

REMAIN IN THE UNDEFINED FUTURE AND ARE NO DOUBT DEPENDENT ON POSITIVE OUTCOME OF SMALLER-SCALE POLLING. KING MAY PLAN TO MINIMIZE ROLE OF OPPOSITION PARTIES IN INITIAL ELECTORAL PROCESS. THIS IMPRESSION REINFORCED BY KING'S STRESS ON THEME THAT SAHARA MARCH HAD CREATED NEW POLITICAL CONSCIOUSNESS AND HIS POINT THAT ELECTIONS SHOULD BE CONDUCTED "FAR FROM NOISE AND DEMAGOGY."
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPEECHES, INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS, TERRITORIAL CLAIMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975RABAT05600
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750400-0384
From: RABAT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751136/aaaabgbm.tel
Line Count: 162
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29 MAY 2003 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <27 OCT 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KING'S SPEECH ON 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MOROCCAN INDEPENDENCE
TAGS: PFOR, PBOR, SS, SP, MO, (HASSAN II)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006